1961 - Letter from Haj amin al-Husseini to President Kennedy
Beirut, 9 May 1961
Palestine Arab Higher Committee
His Excellency, Robert McClintock,
Ambassador of the United States of America, Beirut
His Excellency Mr. John Kennedy,
President of the United States of America, Washington.
Greetings and respect.
The Palestine Arab Higher Committee requests Your Excellency to submit the attached memorandum to His Excellency the President of the United States of America,
Please accept our sincere thanks and deep respect.
His Excellency Mr. John Kennedy,
President of the United States of America,
Washington.
Greetings and respect.
The United Nations General Assembly had committed a grievous fault and a great injustice when, on 29 November 1947, it issued, against the will and desire of the Arabs of Palestine, its known resolutions on the partitioning of Palestine and the creation therein of a Jewish State, in addition to the internationalization of the City of Jerusalem and its district. By these resolutions, the United Nations General Assembly had violated the United Nations Charter, the Charter of Human Rights, the principle of self-determination and the principles of justice and democracy, and had committed an aggression against the rights and interests, of the Arabs of Palestine.

Upon the issuance of these unjust resolutions, the Arabs of Palestine who were the overwhelming majority of the legal inhabitants of the country became the victim of an armed iniquitous aggression committed by a minority of the inhabitants, most of whom were alien colonizers supported by the forces of imperialism which have not ceased to support, arm, and prepare them for such an aggression. This has led to the expulsion of the Arabs of Palestine from their homeland, their dispersal in the world, their deprivation of their political, civil, and religious rights, the looting of their possessions, the pillaging of their properties, the usurpation of their sources of income, and the establishment, over their remains, - of an aggressive alien racial state.

This oppressor state had, after its illegal establishment, committed acts of criminal terrorization and barbaric aggression against the Arabs of Palestine and their brethren in the neighboring Arab countries, without encountering from the big powers and the United Nationss what would check its oppression and rashness or stop its aggression or its violence. In the mearltime, well-known big powers have stood by the side of this Zionist aggression, supported it, and given it, in order that it may continue all kinds of political, milithry, economic, financial and other aids. As a result of this aggression and the insistence of certain states to support it, Palestine suffers today from tragic conditions, and its Arab people live under critical circumstancos and face the most severe. injustice, cruelty and tragedy of dispersal and deprivation that history has ever known.

More than thirteen years have already passed since this aggression has been committed. During this period, the Arabs of Palestinn have not ceasad to appeal to world conscience to do them justice, seek the help of the United Nations and its big powers to save them from the evils and consequences of this aggression, and call upon the comity of nations to work for the realization of their righteous and just demands. But, until today, they have not found listening ears and attentive hearts, and have not seen one single glimpse of

hope announcing the retraction from error, the desistance from aggression, the realization of the principles of justice and right of self-determination, and the respect of the Charters of the United Nations and Human Rights.

The continuance of this unjust condition in Palestine and the overlooking by the United Nations and big powers of their duties, and their negligence of the demands and rights of the Arabs of Palestine have created a dangerous state of affairs in Palestine and the other Arab countries, the peoples and government of which, together with the the peoples and governments of many African and Asian countries, support the Arabs of Palestine. In the meantime, the feeling of resentment and indignation which fills the hearts of Palestinians and Arabs threatens security and peace in the Middle East in particular, and the world in general. This is so because the Arabs can no longer tolerate the continuance of this aggression and overlook the existing status, and will have no alternative but to resort to all means and methods to eliminate it and regain their usurped homeland and pillaged possessions.

Therefore, in the name of the Palestinian Arab people and in the name of right and justice and what you preach of keenness to protect the Charters of the United Nations and Human Rights and preserve stability and peace, I beseech you to quickly interfere in order to correct the unjust mistakes committed against the Arabs of Palestine, eliminate the aggression they suffer, and save security and peace in the Middle East from the dangers that threaten it.

I would like to stress to your Excellency that any measure contrary to right and not in harmony with the just demands of the Arabs would not be of benefit in changing the conditions and establishing peace; and any attempt at liquidating the Palestine case, the effacement of the traces of its people, and the maintenance of aggression and its consequences and results woud not lead to other than increasing the acuteness of tension and multiplying the causes that threaten tranquility and peace. The only way to evade the collapse of

peace and the downfall of the reputation of the big powers and the United Nations is in laying the foundations of justice and equity, the elimination of the injustice from which the Arabs of Palestine and their homeland suffer, and the realization of their just demands which they proclaimed in the attached statement, which their delegation had made in the meeting of the General Assemoly's Special Political Comittee in its past session.

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